

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species Burrowing owl 2. Number: one

3. Location 1 1/2 miles south of Roland, Story County on county road R-77

4. Date: August 28 - September 16 5. Time Bird seen: 5 separate occasions
to 1981

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): photo to come when processed small owl, between 7-9 inches tall, long legs covered with off-color white down feathers, back cream ^{dark} brown with white ^kspecles, no ear tufts visble, white ^{band} under chin, faint black line below white under chin,

7. Description of voice, if heard: bark, then followed by chatter

8. Description of behavior: several times found on fence post, one time saw bird emerge from hole in embankment, could approach to with-

9. Habitat - general: soybean field & barn lot in 20 yards
specific: highway right of way

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Saw-whet owl - legs never usually visible, seeks seclusion in fir tree
Screech owl - has ear tufts

11. Distance (how measured)? 20 yards (paced) 12. Optical equipment: 8x40
Bushnell binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
clear, sun at back with bird in east

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Bear River Refuge, Utah; April, 1981 Story County

15. Other observers:
many

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Yes

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Chandler Robbins' Golden Guide

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Hank Zaletel Address: 667 Pammel Ct.
Signature

Date: August 31, 1981. City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010